

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [1018], with the following rewritten paragraph [1018]:

[1018] In addition, the following description includes the terms branch direction indication and branch prediction qualifier indication. A branch direction indication indicates the direction of a branch instruction instance with respect to branch prediction. Various realizations of the invention indicate the direction from different perspectives (e.g., the indicated direction may be the previous outcome, the predicted outcome, etc.). A branch prediction qualifier indication indicates the condition of a branch prediction (e.g., varying levels of confidence or strength of predictions that ~~may~~may be past, current, or future, saturation counters, etc.).